

HOUSE BILL 426

By DuBois

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,  
Chapter 4, Part 9, relative to lottery scholarships  
and grants.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 4, Part 9, is amended by  
adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated section:

§49-4-9\_\_.

(a) To assist in the administration of this part and to enable high school students and high school graduates to attend postsecondary educational institutions located within this state, TSAC shall annually provide training to high school counselors concerning high school academic requirements for initial lottery scholarship and grant eligibility and postsecondary academic requirements for continuing lottery scholarship and grant eligibility.

(b) In accordance with subsection (a), TSAC shall train school counselors to perform necessary functions needed by TSAC in the determination of initial eligibility for scholarships and grants under this part. TSAC shall train high school counselors to calculate high school grade point averages that determine whether high school students academically qualify for Tennessee HOPE scholarships, Tennessee HOPE access grants and General Assembly Merit Scholar supplemental awards according to the specific requirements of this part. High school counselors shall be responsible for making such calculations and transmitting the grade point averages of all scholarship applicants who graduate from their high schools within the time frame set by TSAC. TSAC's training shall also address selection of high school courses that meet

postsecondary admissions requirements and other postsecondary admissions requirements. Such training shall address eligibility for the dual enrollment grants and encourage the use of such grants by students as introductions to postsecondary education. TSAC shall provide training in various locations throughout the state. Such training may be used towards any in-service training required for public school counselors. All high school counselors are encouraged to attend such training annually.

(c) In order to facilitate administration of scholarships and grants, including dual enrollment grants, created under this part and to increase the number of students initially qualifying for and subsequently retaining such scholarships and grants, TSAC shall establish a program of grants to LEAs to employ high school counselors, or assistant school counselors, who shall perform necessary functions in the awarding of Tennessee HOPE scholarships, Tennessee HOPE access grants and General Assembly Merit Scholar supplemental awards. Such functions shall include computation of high school grade point averages. Grants shall be awarded pursuant to this act subject to the amounts appropriated by the general assembly and any provision of law relating to a shortfall in funds available for postsecondary financial assistance from net proceeds of the state lottery.

(d) In accordance with §49-4-924(e), costs incurred by TSAC in providing training for school counselors and in making grants for the employment of school counselors or assistant school counselors shall be considered costs of administering educational programs created under this part.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring

it.

